(b) whether Government have taken any specific steps to ensure the safety and security of these people of Indian origin?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) All Fijians including of Indian origin are facing difficulties as a result of the recent crisis.

(b) The Government of India have taken every step that was possible in the circumstances to safeguard democracy, rule of law and the interests of all peace loving Fijians, along with those of Indian origin, too. I have been in frequent touch with Foreign Ministers of several countries, in particular those of Australia, New Zealand and United Kingdom on the cirsis in Fiji. Consultations have also been held with the Secretary General of the Commonwealth. A senior official delegation of the Ministry of External Affairs was sent in early June, 2000 to Australia and New Zealand for consultations with these Governments and to Fiji to study the situation at first hand. The situation in Fiji was discussed by PM with Australian PM John Howard during his official visit to India from 10-11 July, 2000. This issue was discussed during the recent ARF in Bangkok. In addition, during the Senior Officials Meeting of the Commonwealth in Pretoria, on 25-26 July the issue of Fiji was discussed at length.

India's stress is on the restoration of the lawfully constituted Government of PM Chaudhry, resumption of the democratic processes and restoration of racial harmony in Fiji. The 1997 Constitution provides an appropriate framework for these ends.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Remunerative Prices to Farmers engaged in oilseed cultivation

1241. SHRI P. K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that farmers engaged in oilseeds cultivations are facing major problems now a days due to excess imports of edible oils from Malaysia, Argentina and Brazil;

(b) if so, whether these farmers are getting remunerative prices of their produces;

(c) if so, whether these farmers may switch to other crops;

(d) if so, the reasons for importing huge quantity of edible oils; and

(e) the steps taken by Government to safeguard the interest of the farmers engaged in the oilseed cultivation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) to (c) In view of large import of edible oils triggered by depressed prices of oil in the International Market, the market prices of some oilseeds like Soyabean, Sunflower, Rapeseed and Mustard were prevailing below the Minimum Support Price (MSP) declared by Government of India during the year 1999-2000 and therefore Government in order to protect the interest of oilseed growers had instructed the NAFED to carry out the purchase operation of oilseed produce on Minimum Support Price. The quantity of various oilseeds procured by NAFED under Price Support Scheme during 1999-2000 is as under:—

(In MTs.)

Crop	Quantity
Soyabean	494418
Sunflower	47045
Rapeseed-Mustard	245399
Safflower	6269
Groundnut	151

(d) As there is a gap between the demand and supply of edible oil in the country, import of edible oils has been allowed to fill the gap and to make available edible oils to the masses at reasonable price.

(e) The Central Government is encouraging the cultivation of oilseeds in the country by providing various incentives by way of subsidies on various critical inputs under Oilseeds Production Programme (OPP) which is being implemented in various States in the country. Morever, the Government of India has been announcing the Minimum Support Prices of oilseed crops every year well before the sowing season of oilseed crops and NAFED is the central nodal agency to carry out the purchase operations of oilseed grower's produce on the MSP in case the market prices of oilseeds fall below the Minimum Support Price.